

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 2-6 are allowable and that claims 7-11 are allowed.

Claims 1-11 were previously pending in the application. New claims 12-20 are added. Therefore claims 1-20 are presented for consideration.

Claim 1 is rejected as anticipated by KAMEYAMA (JP60-114836). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 of the present application includes a positioning means for positioning a lens camera cone at a predetermined reel-out position at a time when the lens camera cone is reeled out and positioning the lens camera cone at a predetermined sinking position at a time when the lens camera cone is sunk.

Claim 1 is presented in a §112, sixth paragraph format reciting a "means for" performing a certain function. Therefore, the applied art must teach or suggest a corresponding structure described in the specification or equivalents thereof that perform the exact recited function.

When making a 35 USC §112, paragraph 6 analysis, the Examiner must find that (1) a prior art element performs a claimed function, (2) the prior art element is not excluded by

any explicit definition provided in the specification from equivalent, and (3) the prior art element is an equivalent, the Examiner should provide an explanation and rationale in the Official Action as to why the prior art element is equivalent to the claimed means.

The Official Action has indicated element 31 of KAMEYAMA as a positioning means for positioning a cone at a predetermined reel-out position and predetermined sinking position. As shown in Figure 3 of KAMEYAMA, for example, element 31 is a lever attached to lever 25. As lens switch 6 is moved from side to side, lever 25 attached to switch 6 causes lever 31 to pivot. Lever 31 is connected to slot 32. When lever 31 pivots, it also slides in slot 32 and reels out lens camera cone 5 out of lens camera body 2. Sliding switch 6 back to its original position will sink the lens camera cone 5 back into the lens body 2.

Applicants believe that sliding switch 6 to engage a plurality of levers so that one of the levers slides in a slot to reel out the lens camera cone is not an equivalent of the recited means for positioning the lens camera cone as disclosed on page 13, lines 15-22, page 14, line 11 through page 15, line 2 and page 33, lines 15-18 in conjunction with Figure 3 of the present application.

Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 are respectfully requested.

New claims 12-16 include the allowable features of claims 2-6 and for the same reason that claims 2-6 are allowable, claims 12-16 are also believed allowable.

New claims 17-20 include the allowable features of claims 2-5 and for the reasons that claims 2-5 are allowable, claims 17-20 are also believed allowable.

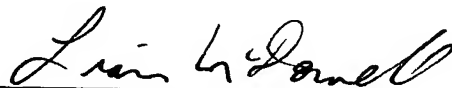
In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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